AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Detailed Listing of All Claims 1-29:

1. (original) A variable position catalyst, comprising:

a catalyst housing (7) accommodating a catalyst body (1); and

an actuator member (9) for moving the catalyst body (1) with respect to the catalyst housing (7) such that the catalyst body (1) can be moved to an active catalyst position (35) or to an inactive catalyst position (14),

characterized in that

said catalyst body (1) is held by a cradle (5) having a plate (2, 3), and

said active catalyst position (35) is provided in an exhaust passage the inner wall of which is in alignment with the plate (2, 3) when the catalyst body (1) is moved in its inactive catalyst position.

2. (original) The variable position catalyst according to claim 1, wherein the plate (2, 3) is disc-shaped.

3. (original) The variable position catalyst according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the active catalyst position (35) is exposed to an exhaust gas stream of an engine.

4. (previously presented) The variable position catalyst according to claim 1, wherein at least the inactive catalyst position (14) is provided within the catalyst housing (7).

5. (previously presented) The variable position catalyst according to claim 1, wherein the cradle (5) is connected to the actuator member (9) by an actuator rod (10).

6. (original) The variable position catalyst according to claim 5, wherein the catalyst housing (7) has a cylindrical inner shape and the cradle (5) has a cylindrical outer shape, the inner diameter of the catalyst housing (7) fitting to the outer diameter of the cradle (5).

7. (original) The variable position catalyst according to claim 5 or 6, wherein the cradle (5) comprises two disc-shaped plates (2, 3) between which the catalyst body (1) is held.

8. (previously presented) The variable position catalyst according to claim 1, wherein the actuator member (2) is a pneumatic device.

9. (previously presented) The variable position catalyst according to claim 1, wherein the actuator member (9) is an electric device.

10. (currently amended) The variable position catalyst according to claim 5, wherein the actuator rod (10) moves the catalyst body (1) to the active catalyst position (35) when the actuator member (9) is actuated, and moves the catalyst body (1) to the inactive catalyst position (7) when the actuator (9) is released.

11. (previously presented) The variable position catalyst according to claim 1, wherein the catalyst body (1), the catalyst housing (7) and the actuator member (9) comprise one common axis along which the catalyst body (1) is movable.

12. (original) The variable position catalyst according to claim 11, wherein the actuator member (9) is located outside the catalyst housing (7), and the actuator rod (10) penetrates the catalyst housing (7) along the common axis.

13. (previously presented) The variable position catalyst according to claim 5, wherein the cradle (5) comprises a leading edge (13a) which is always in contact with a portion of the catalyst housing (7) providing the inactive position (14).

14. (previously presented) The variable position catalyst according to claim 1, wherein the variable position catalyst is provided upstream of a turbocharger of an engine.

15. (original) An internal combustion engine, wherein an exhaust gas of the engine is passed through an exhaust gas passage, the combustion engine further comprising a variable position catalyst having:

a catalyst housing (7) accommodating a catalyst body (1); and

an actuator member (9) for moving the catalyst body (1) with respect to the catalyst housing (7) such that the catalyst body (1) can be moved to an active catalyst position (35) or to an inactive catalyst position (14),

characterized in that

said catalyst body (1) is held by a cradle (5) having a plate (2, 3), and

said active catalyst position (35) is provided in an exhaust passage the inner wall of which is in alignment with the plate (2, 3) when the catalyst body (1) is moved in its inactive catalyst position.

16. (original) The internal combustion engine according to claim 15, wherein the plate (2, 3) is disc-shaped.

17. (original) The internal combustion engine according to claim 15 or 16, wherein the active catalyst position (35) exposed to an exhaust gas stream of the engine.

18. (previously presented) The internal combustion engine according to claim 15, wherein at least the inactive catalyst position (14) is provided within the catalyst housing (7).

19. (previously presented) The internal combustion engine according to claim 15, wherein the catalyst body (1) is held by a cradle (5) connected to the actuator member (9) by an actuator rod (10).

20. (original) The internal combustion engine according to claim 19, wherein the catalyst housing (7) has a cylindrical inner shape and the cradle (5) has a cylindrical outer shape, the inner diameter of the housing fitting to the outer diameter of the cradle (5).

21. (original) The internal combustion engine according to claim 19 or 20, wherein the cradle comprises two disc-shaped plates (1, 2) between which the catalyst body (1) is held.

22. (previously presented) The internal combustion engine according to claim 15, wherein the actuator member (9) is a pneumatic device.

23. (previously presented) The internal combustion engine according to claim 15, wherein the actuator member (9) is an electric device.

24. (currently amended) The internal combustion engine according to claim 23, wherein the actuator rod (10) moves the catalyst body (1) to the active catalyst position (35) when the actuator member (9) is actuated, and moves the catalyst body (1) to the inactive catalyst position (14) when the actuator (9) is released.

25. (previously presented) The internal combustion engine according to claim 15, wherein the catalyst body (1), the catalyst housing (7) and the actuator member (9) comprise one common axis along which the catalyst body (1) is movable.

26. (original) The internal combustion engine according to claim 25, wherein the actuator member (9) is located outside the catalyst housing (7), and the actuator rod (10) penetrates the catalyst housing (7) along the common axis.

27. (previously presented) The internal combustion engine according to claim 19, wherein the cradle (5) comprises a leading edge (13a) which is always in contact with a portion of the catalyst housing (7) providing the inactive position (35).

28. (original) The combustion engine according to claim 27, wherein a part of the catalyst housing (7) constitutes a part of the exhaust gas passage.

29. (previously presented) The combustion engine according to claim 15, further comprising a turbocharger for compressing the air to be supplied to the combustion engine, wherein the variable position catalyst is disposed upstream of the turbocharger.